

While the present invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate numerous modifications and variations therefrom. It is intended that the appended
5 claims cover all such modifications and variations as fall within the true spirit and scope of this present invention.

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 enabling automatic access to a telephone number
3 associated with a second party during a telephone call;
4 enabling access to a first database in a first
5 system, said first database storing multiple records, each
6 including a name, a telephone number and other information;
7 and
8 enabling the telephone number to be used to
9 locate in said database a record for said second party.

1 2. The method of claim 1 including enabling the
2 system to automatically initiate a search in a second
3 database for information related to said record.

1 3. The method of claim 2 including locating said
2 second database external to said first system in a second
3 system with a second application.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including enabling the
2 first system to transmit a search query to said second
3 system and to receive search results from said second
4 system.

1 5. The method of claim 3 including enabling the
2 first system to store information in said first database
3 found in said second database.

1 6. The method of claim 2 including selecting said
2 second database from a plurality of databases.

1 7. The method of claim 6 including enabling a user
2 preference table to be stored in association with said
3 first database which indicates a preferred search hierarchy
4 among said plurality of databases.

1 8. The method of claim 1 including enabling the
2 first system to store a sequential listing of telephone
3 numbers of outgoing telephone calls and caller
4 identification information for incoming telephone calls.

1 9. A system comprising:
2 a processor; ^(see Figure 1)
3 a storage ^(486 computer) associated with said processor to store
4 a first database with a plurality of records, each
5 containing a telephone number, a name and other
6 information; and ^(Host 1)
7 an application stored in said storage that ^{Figure 2A}
8 enables said processor to access the telephone number of a
9 second party to an ongoing telephone call, search said
10 first database for a record containing said telephone
11 number, and display a name, telephone number and other
12 information associated with said record.

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10. The system of claim 9 wherein said application
2 automatically initiates a search for information related to
3 said record in a second database.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said application
2 transmits a search query and receives search results to
3 obtain extended data related to said record in a database
4 external to said system.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein if said
2 information is found in said external database, said
3 application automatically stores said information in said
4 first database.

13. The system of claim 13 wherein said storage
2 stores a user preference table that indicates a preferred
3 search hierarchy among a plurality of databases.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein said storage stores
2 a sequential listing of telephone numbers of outgoing
3 telephone calls and caller identification information for
4 incoming telephone calls.

15. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

3 automatically access a telephone number of a
4 second party to an ongoing telephone call;
5 access a first database storing a plurality of
6 records, each record including a name, a telephone number
7 and other information;
8 search said first database for a record
9 containing said telephone number; and
10 display a name, number and other information
11 associated with said record.

1 16. The article of claim 15 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to automatically
3 initiate a search for information related to said record in
4 a second database.

1 17. The article of claim 16 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to search for
3 said information related to said record in a second
4 database external to said system.

1 18. The article of claim 17 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to transmit a
3 search query to said second database and receive search
4 results.

1 19. The article of claim 17 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to automatically
3 store, information related to said record found in said
4 second database, in said first database.

1 20. The article of claim 16 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to select said
3 second database from a plurality of databases, each of said
4 databases located externally of said system.

1 21. The article of claim 20 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to access a user
3 preference table that indicates a preferred search
4 hierarchy among the plurality of databases.

1 22. The article of claim 15 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable the system to store a
3 sequential listing of telephone numbers of outgoing phone
4 calls and caller identification information for incoming
5 telephone calls.

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